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DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COW-POCK INSTITUTION, DUBLIN.

An Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Infection.

	Patients inoculated.	Packets issued to Practitioners in general.	Packets to Army Surgeons.
1804	578	776	236
1805	1,032	1,124	178
1806	1,356	1,340	220
1807	2,156	1,790	320
1808	3,002	2,285	333
1809	3,911	2,540	244
1810	4,084	3,219	284
1811	4,157	3,838	368
1812	5,162	3,901	492
Totals.	25,468	20,843	2,585

By the foregoing abstract from the Register of inoculations and distribution of infection, it appears that the business of the institution has increased progressively since its establishment in 1804. There has been a considerable increase in the number vaccinated this year, and the demands for infection have sometimes been so numerous, as to prevent their being promptly supplied.

Small Pox has been usually prevalent throughout Dublin and its neighbourhood since Spring, and it still rages, though not so generally. The directors of the institution, however, are happy to record the efficacy of vaccination in resisting so severe an epidemic. From the close intercourse between the lower orders in this city, and the crowded state of their dwellings, thousands of children, vaccinated from nine years to one month, were unavoidably exposed to the full force of the infection, affording the most conclusive evidence of the preventive power of the Cow Pock. Attention to early vaccination has protected the children of the higher and middle ranks of society from the prevailing epidemic the dreadful effects of which are of course confined to the poor, who, from apathy rather than dislike to Cow Pock, neglect the salutary precaution, until roused by the appearance of Small Pox at their doors.

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By the correspondence of the institution, it appears that the epidemic was very generally and severely felt throughout Ireland. In some instances the introduction of the disease into towns, from whence it had been for a long time banished by the prudent substitution of Cow Pock, was traced to some itinerant quacks, who, by inoculating a few with Small Pox, widely disseminated the contagion.

Two instances of a most unwarrantable fraud, practiced upon parents in the county of Derry, have been communicated to the institution: namely, the clandestine substitution of Small Pox for Cow Pock. In the cases alluded to, the children, instead of being vaccinated agreeable to the wish of the parents, were intentionally inoculated with the Small Pox; one died, and the other lost his sight.

Of the above 25,468 patients, four have taken the Small Pox, but the disease was mild and of short duration. Similar failures have occurred in Small Pox inoculation; and there are well-authenticated instances of persons having the natural disease twice. The cases in which Small Pox has followed Cow Pock are so few, in proportion to the many thousands that have been vaccinated, as to afford no rational objection to the practice; and it is reasonable to suppose, that increasing experience will render such occurrences even less frequent. Four children who were inoculated at the institution had a variolous eruption, so mild, however, as to lead some to doubt its being Small-Pox. On looking over the Register, it appeared that three of them had not gone fairly through the Cow-Pock, and the fourth never was examined after the eighth day. The premature appearance of the areola in one, suggested at the time a doubt of the efficacy of the inoculation.

It having been proved, by the most incontestible evidence, that not more than one in several thousands of those vaccinated, remain liable to Small Pox, there is strong reason to apprehend, in such failures, some defect in the Cow Pock infection employed, or in the mode of conducting the operation, or some peculiarity of constitution, such as renders a person susceptible to a second attack of the Small Pox.

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Many children were inoculated, who had been exposed for several days to the variolous infection. In the majority, the Small Pox was superseded by the Cow Pock; and in a few, there was a co-existence of the two diseases.

The Register affords no instance of Cow Pock exciting obstinate eruptions, or any other complaints in the constitution. Upon the whole, the directors feel happy in stating, that the result of nine years' experience fully justifies their strongest recommendation of a steady perseverance in the practise of vaccination.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Protestant Dissenting Ministers of the Three Denominations residing in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, holden at the Library, in Redcross-street, on Tuesday, February 2d, for the purpose of considering the propriety of presenting Petitions to the present Parliament, for the Repeal of all the Penal Statutes now in force on the Subject of Religion,

Rev. Joseph Barrett in the Chair.

Resolved unanimously, That it is the natural right of all men to worship God agreeably to the dictates of their own consciences.

Resolved unanimously, That all human laws which serve to restrict them in the exercise of this right, are unjust in their principle, and in their tendency and operation highly injurious to the best interests of religion.

Resolved unanimously, That this Body regard with deep concern the existence, on the statute books of their country, of several laws of this description, which, in whatever measure recommended at the several periods of their enactment by the plea of political necessity, are at present, from the change that has taken place in the circumstances of the times, and the more liberal spirit which prevails among all classes of the community, no less unwarranted by such plea, than they are repugnant to the principles of Christianity.

Resolved unanimously, That, with the view of asserting their claim to the unrestricted freedom of divine worship, and to an equal participation with their fellow-subjects of the privileges of the constitution, from which they are excluded on account of their religious profession, a petition be presented from this body to both Houses

of Parliament, praying for a repeal of all the penal statutes now in force, whose operation extends to the province of religion.

Resolved unanimously, that the petition now produced be adopted by the body.

JOSEPH BARRETT, Chairman.

At a numerous Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Staffordshire Potteries, convened by public advertisement, and held at the Town Hall, Hanley, on the 27th January, 1813, for taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning the Legislature, to adopt such measures as in their wisdom they shall think fit, for bringing about a general peace.

Josiah Wedgwood, Esq. in the Chair.

Resolved, That we view with the deepest anxiety, the disastrous effects of the long protracted warfare, in which this country is engaged, on our present condition and future prospects.

That we hold it to be our duty, as Englishmen, to use all constitutional means for terminating a war fatal to the true interests of our country, and as Christians, earnestly desire by promoting according to the measure of our ability, the restoration of peace, to alleviate the sufferings of the nations, who are now enduring the miseries and horrors of war. And it is with peculiar regret that we have now to number among our enemies, the United States of America, a people connected with us by blood and similarity of manners, using our language, and inheriting our principles of freedom.

That we turn to the House of Commons as our constitutional guardian, and resolve to petition that honourable House, to use such measures as in their wisdom they shall think fit, for bringing about a general peace.

That in thus addressing our earnest supplications to the House of Commons, we are actuated by a spirit of pure and firm patriotism. We wish for no sacrifices incompatible with the real dignity and true honour of our country, being resolved to uphold these, as the safeguards of our liberty and independence. But we are firmly convinced, that the valour and skill of our navy and army, have raised our national character to a height of glory, which renders it becoming in us, to make the first advances for opening a negotiation, whilst the unequalled success of Russia